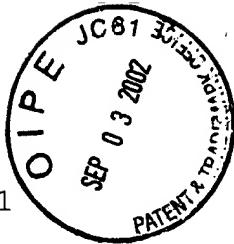


2328-111  
JLI/PTS



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grd

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of )  
Ari HINKKANEN )  
Serial No. 09/015,399 )  
Filed: January 29, 1998 )  
For: A NEW FUSION PROTEIN AND )  
ITS USE IN AN IMMUNOASSAY )  
FOR THE SIMULTANEOUS )  
DETECTION OF AUTOANTIBODIES )  
RELATED TO INSULIN-DEPENDENT )  
DIABETES MELLITUS )

Examiner: G. Ewoldt  
Group Art Unit: 1644  
**RECEIVED**

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TECH CENTER 1600/2000

**COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO JULY 2, 2002 OFFICE ACTION**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This Communication is submitted in response to the July 2, 2002 Office Action issued in connection with the above-identified application. A response to the Office Action was originally due August 2, 2002. A one-month extension of time extending the due date to September 2, 2002 accompanies this Communication. Because September 2, 2002 falls on a Federal holiday, a response filed on the next succeeding business day, i.e., September 3, 2002 is to be considered timely. Therefore, this Communication is being timely filed.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 17-20, 23-24, and 27-28 are pending in the application. In the July 2, 2002 Office Action, the Examiner